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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Before the Examiner:

Jeffrey M. Achtermann et al.

L. Jacobs

Serial No.: 09/438,437

Group Art Unit: 2157

Filed: November 12, 1999

Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD:

IBM Corporation

FOR DISTRIBUTING AND

Intellectual Property Law

COLLECTING BULK DATA BETWEEN :

11400 Burnet Road

A LARGE NUMBER OF MACHINES

Austin, Texas 78758

REPLY TRANSMITTAL

RECEIVED

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

JUL 1 5 2004

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Fourth Reply Under 37. C.F.R. § 1.111 and Acknowledgement Postcard for the above-identified Application.

- No additional fee is required.
- ☐ The fee has been calculated as shown below:

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on July 9, 2004.

Signature

Toni Stanley

(Printed name of person certifying)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMEN T		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
Total Claims:	22	-	22	0	x \$18 =	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims:	3		3	0	x \$86 =	\$ 0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT =						\$ 0.00

- Please charge Deposit Account No. <u>09-0447 (AT9-99-274)</u> in the amount of <u>\$0</u>. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.
- The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 09-0447 (AT9-99-274). A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.
 - Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.
 - Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

Attorney for Applicants

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P.O. Box 50784

Austin_1\254805\1 7047-P318US 7/9/2004 - 1 -

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FOURTH REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action having a mailing date of April 9, 2004 (Paper No.

9), with a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 9, 2004, please reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the following remarks:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

Signature

Toni Stanley

(Printed name of person certifying)